

Solving linear systems using substitution method

1. Look at the system and identify a variable that has a coefficient of 1. Once you identify the variable, then solve the equation for the variable which has the coefficient of one.

$$\begin{array}{l} 6x + y = 14 \leftarrow \text{"y" has a coeff. of 1} \\ 10x - y = 2 \leftarrow \text{"y" has a coeff. of -1} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \text{Solve for } y: & 6x + y = 14 & \\ & -6x & -6x \\ \hline & y = 14 - 6x & \end{array}$$

2. Now take $14 - 6x$ and substitute this in for the y-variable in $10x - y = 2$.

$$\begin{array}{l} 10x - 1(14 - 6x) = 2 \\ 10x - 14 + 6x = 2 \\ 16x - 14 = 2 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 +14 \quad +14 \\
 \hline
 16x = 16 \\
 \frac{16}{16} \quad \frac{16}{16} \\
 x = 1
 \end{array}$$

3. Next substitute 1 in for the x variable in one of the original equations.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 10x - y = 2 \\
 10(1) - y = 2 \\
 10 - y = 2 \\
 \frac{-10}{-10} \quad \frac{-10}{-10} \\
 \hline
 -y = -8 \\
 \frac{-y}{-1} = \frac{-8}{-1} \\
 y = 8
 \end{array}$$

solution
(1, 8)

4. Write the solution as an ordered pair. (1, 8) is where the two lines would intersect each other on a graph.

